



PRESIDENCY
UNIVERSITY



PRESIDENCY SCHOOL OF LAW x IAMC

National

Mediation Competition

November

15 & 16

2025

2025

POOL PRIZE

**1 LAKH+
Internship
Benefits**



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

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Dean, Presidency School of Law



Presidency University, Bengaluru

Presidency University, Bangalore, is a NAAC 'A' accredited institution, renowned for its commitment to quality education and holistic student development. Established in 2013 by the Presidency Group of Institutions, it is an emerging leading educational institution in India. With a focus on innovation, research, and experiential learning, the University attracts students seeking both academic excellence and personal growth.

Offering a wide range of programs in computer science, engineering, management, law, design, media, science, and commerce, the University blends theoretical knowledge with practical application. The experienced faculty ensures a dynamic and supportive learning environment. The University prepares students for global careers, emphasizing discipline, integrity, and adherence to its values and regulations. Every student is encouraged to uphold these standards and contribute to the University's esteemed legacy. Presidency University has earned numerous recognitions, including the QS-I Gauge Gold, ranking 6th in the Times Engineering Institute Survey, and Best University of the Year (South) by ASSOCHAM.

Presidency School of Law

The Presidency School of Law, ranked 16th among the best law colleges in India according to the IIRF Rankings 2023, offers an inclusive legal education with a pragmatic approach. The experienced academia, comprised of legal scholars and practitioners, guides students through rigorous programs in civil rights, criminal law, technology law, and intellectual property law. The school consistently reinvents itself by facilitating a robust learning environment that emphasizes legal reasoning, ethics, and practical skills.

With state-of-the-art facilities, immersive learning opportunities, and a commitment to justice, the Presidency School of Law equips graduates to excel in the legal landscape with both passion and expertise to thrive on the path towards a successful and impactful legal career.



Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of Presidency School of Law is a student-driven committee dedicated to promoting awareness and proficiency in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, including mediation, conciliation, mediation, and negotiation. The committee fosters a culture of amicable dispute resolution through workshops, training sessions, and national-level competitions. With experienced faculty members and legal experts guiding the initiatives, the ADR Committee provides students with a practical understanding of dispute resolution mechanisms beyond traditional litigation.

The committee regularly collaborates with industry professionals and mediation institutions to offer a well-rounded learning experience. The committee provides diverse learning opportunities to young, budding lawyers and law students, as there is a paradoxical shift in the legal scenario from court proceedings towards swifter and discernible methods of dispute resolution. This committee aims at establishing an environment fit for the students to imbibe and engage themselves in the alternative dispute resolution methods and to equip themselves with skill sets necessary for it and render themselves employable.

Additionally, the committee has also organized trial advocacy competitions to give students an insight into the intricacies of a courtroom experience. These competitions simulate real-life litigation scenarios where participants engage in examination and cross-examination of witnesses, submission of legal arguments, and courtroom decorum. Such initiatives ensure that students gain hands-on experience in both mediation and litigation, equipping them with the skills necessary for their future legal careers.

Over the years, the ADR Committee has actively hosted two major internal mediation competitions— Settlesphere and Nyay ka Kurukshetra —focusing on mediation and mediation as key ADR mechanisms. These competitions aim to prepare students for national and international mediation events. These internal competitions help students refine their legal research, drafting, and oral advocacy skills while providing a platform to test their abilities in a controlled and competitive environment.



Presidency School of Law Mediation Competition 2025

The Presidency School of Law Mediation Competition 2025, organized by the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee, offers law students a platform to engage in simulated mediation proceedings. This prestigious event aims to enhance advocacy skills, strategic thinking, and understanding of mediation law.

The competition being held on November 15 & 16, 2025, aims to provide a platform for law students to hone their mediation and advocacy skills while engaging with complex legal problems and real-world dispute resolution mechanisms. Participants will have the opportunity to showcase their research, legal reasoning, and oral advocacy before expert arbitrators and mediators from academia, industry, and the legal profession.

Through this competition, students will gain invaluable exposure to mediation as an alternative dispute resolution method, fostering a deeper understanding of legal frameworks, procedural rules, and case management techniques. The competition is structured to mirror real-life mediation proceedings, offering students a comprehensive and immersive experience in dispute resolution.



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OFFICIAL RULES OF THE INAUGURAL PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY NATIONAL MEDIATION COMPETITION, 2025

PREAMBLE:

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Committee of the School of Law, Presidency University, Bengaluru, proudly presents the inaugural Presidency University National Mediation Competition, 2025. This competition is conceived with the vision of creating a premier national platform for aspiring legal professionals to cultivate and demonstrate excellence in the art of mediation and collaborative dispute resolution. This Rulebook is the supreme governing document of the Competition. By completing the registration, all participants irrevocably agree to be bound by the rules, procedures, and spirit of this competition.

ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

To ensure clarity and uniform interpretation, the following terms shall hold the meanings assigned below throughout the Competition:

1.1 “Competition” shall mean the Presidency University National Mediation Competition, 2025, including all its rounds, ceremonies, and associated events.

1.2 “Organising Committee (OC)” refers to the official body comprising designated faculty and student members of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Club of the School of Law, Presidency University. The OC is the final authority on the interpretation, application, and enforcement of this Rulebook.

1.3 “Competition Problem” shall mean the fictional dispute scenario, including all its annexures and facts, drafted by the OC for use in a specific round of the Competition. These problems are created for academic purposes, and any resemblance to real persons, entities, or events is purely coincidental.

1.4 “General Information” refers to the portion of the Competition Problem that is provided to all participants in a given round, outlining the common facts of the dispute.

1.5 “Confidential Information Exhibit (CIE)” refers to the separate, party-specific document containing private information, hidden interests, and specific instructions for each Negotiating Pair. This information is not to be shared with any other party.



1.6 “Participating Team” shall mean a team of three individuals from the same institution whose registration has been formally completed and confirmed by the OC.

1.7 “Negotiating Pair” refers to the two members of a Participating Team designated as the ‘Client’ and the ‘Counsel’, who will act as a single, cohesive unit representing one of the parties in the dispute.

1.8 “Mediator” refers to the third member of a Participating Team, who will act as a neutral facilitator in a Competition Session involving two other Negotiating Pairs.

1.9 “Competition Session” shall mean the official, timed mediation session where one Mediator facilitates a negotiation between two Opposing Negotiating Pairs to resolve the Competition Problem.

1.10 “Session Supervisor” shall be a member of the OC present in each Competition Session, whose role is to enforce the time limits, manage logistics, and ensure adherence to the Rules. They will not be involved in the evaluation of the teams.

1.11 “Expert Assessors” shall mean the panel of impartial judges, comprising legal professionals, academics, and accredited mediators, appointed by the OC to evaluate and score the performance of the participants in each Competition Session.

1.12 “Advanced Rounds” collectively refers to the Octa-Finals, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals, and the Final Round, all of which are knockout stages.

1.13 “Penalty” includes, but is not limited to, a deduction of marks, a formal warning, or, in severe cases, the disqualification of a team from the Competition for any breach of this Rulebook.

1.14 “Private Caucus” refers to a private meeting held during a Competition Session between the Mediator and one of the Negotiating Pairs, exclusive of the other Pair.

1.15 “Scouting” is strictly defined as any act by a team member or any individual affiliated with a team (such as a coach or observer) of attending a Competition Session in which their team is not a participant, for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage. This prohibition stands until the team is officially eliminated from the Competition.



ARTICLE 2: GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.1 Official Language: The sole and official language of the entire Competition, including all written materials and oral proceedings, shall be English. No other language will be permitted during the Competition Sessions.

2.2 Applicable Dates: The Competition shall be conducted on November 15 & 16, 2025. Unless specified otherwise, any reference to a deadline in this Rulebook or associated communications shall be interpreted as 11:59 PM Indian Standard Time (IST) on the stipulated date.

2.3 Dress Code: A strict and mandatory formal business dress code must be adhered to by all participants during all Competition Sessions, the Inaugural Ceremony, and the Valedictory Ceremony. This is non-negotiable and reflects the professional standards of the event.

2.3.1 Ladies: A Combination of a White Formal Shirt, Black Formal Trousers or a Black Formal Skirt, A Black Blazer/Coat, And Black Closed-Toe Formal Shoes. A Black Tie Is Optional but Encouraged.

2.3.2 Gentlemen: A White Formal Shirt, Black Formal Trousers, A Black Tie, A Black Blazer/Coat, And Black Formal Shoes.

ARTICLE 3: ELIGIBILITY AND TEAM COMPOSITION

3.1 Institutional Eligibility: Participation is open to institutions located in India that are recognized by the Bar Council of India for imparting legal education.

3.2 Student Eligibility: The competition is open to all students who are enrolled bona fide on a regular basis in an undergraduate (3-year or 5-year LL.B.) law course.

3.3 Team Limits: Each institution is permitted to register a maximum of two teams.



3.4 Team Composition and Roles:

(A) Each team must consist of exactly three members.

(B) During registration, the team must designate one member as the Mediator and the other two members as the Client-Counsel Pair. The specific roles of 'Client' and 'Counsel' within the pair must also be designated. These roles are fixed and cannot be altered or interchanged after the final registration deadline. Any request for a change due to unforeseen, extenuating circumstances must be submitted in writing to the OC, whose decision on the matter will be final. An unauthorized change of roles will result in immediate disqualification.

ARTICLE 4: REGISTRATION

4.1 Registration Procedure:

4.1.1 Registration will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the maximum number of participating teams as determined by the OC.

4.1.2 To register, teams must complete the official online Registration Form and pay the registration fee by the stipulated deadline.

4.1.3 A registration is considered complete only after the successful submission of the form and the realization of the registration fee. Incomplete registrations will not be considered.

4.1.4 The OC will send a confirmation email upon successful registration

4.2 Registration Fee: A non-refundable registration fee inclusive of accommodation of ₹3,800/- (Rupees Three Thousand Eight Hundred Only) shall be paid by each team upon confirmation of their slot. The fee is non-refundable under any circumstances, except in the unlikely event of the cancellation of the competition by the OC.



4.3 Team Code: Upon successful completion of Final Registration, each team will be assigned a unique Team Code. This code will be the sole identifier for the team throughout the competition. Teams must use this code in all correspondence with the OC and during the competition rounds.

4.4 Payment Details: [CLICK HERE](#)

(Also available in the Registration Link)

A Screenshot Or Transaction Receipt Of The Payment Must Be Uploaded In the Final Registration Form. Payment is non-refundable.

ARTICLE 5: COMPETITION STRUCTURE AND THEMES

The competition unfolds over five progressive rounds, each designed to test different facets of ADR skills. The mediation shall be conducted in accordance with a facilitative mediation process. While Mediators are free to structure the process, they must adhere to the core principles of mediation: voluntariness, neutrality, confidentiality, and party autonomy. Unless otherwise provided, the mediation shall be guided by the IAMC Mediation Rules to the extent relevant and applicable.

5.1 Preliminary Rounds (I & II) - Merit-Based Rounds:

5.1.1 Every team will participate in two guaranteed preliminary rounds.

5.1.2 Each Negotiating Pair will compete once as the 'Requesting Party' and once as the 'Responding Party'.

5.1.3 Each Mediator will mediate one session in each preliminary round.

5.1.4 To ensure impartiality, a Mediator will not be assigned to a session involving the Negotiating Pair from their own institution.



5.2 Octa-Finals - Knockout Round:

The top sixteen (16) Negotiating Pairs and the top sixteen (16) Mediators, ranked independently based on their cumulative scores from the two preliminary rounds, will advance.

(The round shall be conducted only if there are sufficient participants, and the Organizing Committee shall have the sole discretion in this regard).

5.3 Quarter-Finals - Knockout Round:

The eight winning Negotiating Pairs and the eight highest-scoring Mediators from the Prelims/Octa-Finals will advance to this round.

5.4 Semi-Finals - Knockout Round:

The four winning Negotiating Pairs and the four highest-scoring Mediators from the Quarter-Finals will advance to this round.

5.5 Final Round - Championship Round:

The two winning Negotiating Pairs and the two highest-scoring Mediators from the Semi-Finals will compete for the championship title

ARTICLE 6: COMPETITION PROCEDURE

6.1 The Mediation Problem:

6.1.1 The Mediation Problem for the Preliminary Rounds, Octa Final Rounds and Quarter Final Round shall be based on Matrimonial Disputes and for the Semi Final Rounds and the Final Round, the theme of the Mediation Problem shall be revealed at the later stage.

6.1.2 The General Information for the Preliminary Rounds, Octa Final Rounds and Quarter Final Rounds will be released to all teams in advance as per the timeline. For Advanced Rounds, it will be released at the later stage.

6.1.3 The Confidential Information Exhibit (CIE) for each Negotiating Pair will be disclosed within a reasonable time, prior to the scheduled start of the Competition Session.



6.1.4 Participants are strictly bound by the facts provided. While reasonable inferences are permitted, the introduction of new, material facts that are not deducible from the problem materials is strictly forbidden and will be penalized. The decision of the Expert Assessors on what constitutes a "material fact" shall be final.

6.2. Time Distribution:

The time structure for each round is sacrosanct and will be strictly enforced by the Session Supervisor. Assessors will be instructed to factor adherence to time limits into their scores.

Session Detail	Prelims, Octa-Finals & Quarter Finals (in Mins)	Semi-Finals (in Mins)	Final Round (in Mins)
Mediator's Opening Statement	5	6	7
Requesting Side's Opening Statement	5	5	7
Responding Side's Opening Statement	5	5	7
Joint Session	12	15	20
Caucus (Total Time)	10	12	15
Post-Caucus Joint Session	10	12	15
Closing Statements (Each Party & Mediator)	4 (each)	5 (each)	6 (each)
Judges' Feedback	5	5	7
Total Round Time (Excluding Feedback)	60	70	90



6.3 The Private Caucus:

6.3.1 A caucus may be requested at any appropriate time by either Negotiating Pair or the Mediator.

6.3.2 The total time for all caucuses within a round is fixed as per the table above. The Mediator is responsible for managing this time.

6.3.3 The strategic necessity, timing, and efficient use of a caucus are assessable components of a team's performance.

ARTICLE 7: CODE OF CONDUCT

7.1 Anonymity:

7.1.1 The principle of anonymity is fundamental to the integrity of the competition. Any disclosure of the name of a participant's institution, city, or state, whether intentional or accidental, is a serious violation.

7.1.2 This includes, but is not limited to, logos on attire, files, stationery, or accessories, and any verbal mention during a session.

7.1.3 A breach of this rule will result in a severe penalty, decided solely by the OC, which may include disqualification.

7.2 Scouting: Scouting is considered a grave ethical violation and is strictly prohibited. Any team found to have engaged in scouting will be immediately disqualified from the competition without appeal.

7.3 Confidentiality: The content of the Confidential Information Exhibit (CIE) is sacrosanct. Participants must not disclose this information to anyone, including their own team's Mediator or any other participant, for the entire duration of the competition. Any disclosure of the Confidential Information shall lead to the immediate disqualification of the entire team.



7.4 Professionalism and Decorum: All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a professional legal proceeding. This includes showing utmost respect to Expert Assessors, the OC, Session Supervisors, and fellow competitors. Any act of aggression, unprofessional communication, or harassment will not be tolerated.

7.5 Prohibition on Electronic Devices: The use of any electronic device, including mobile phones, laptops, smartwatches, or tablets, is strictly forbidden inside the Competition Session rooms. Teams found in violation of this rule will be penalised.

ARTICLE 8: EVALUATION AND SCORING

8.1 General Scoring Principles:

8.1.1 The Mediator and the Negotiating Pair (Client & Counsel) from the same institution are scored independently. A Mediator's score has no bearing on their Negotiating Pair's score, and vice versa.

8.1.2 The Client and Counsel are evaluated as a single, composite unit. Their teamwork, role clarity, and unified strategy are key components of their score.



8.2 Detailed Marking Schemes:

8.2.1 For Mediators (Total 50 Marks)

Judging Criteria	Marks	Remarks
Opening Statement & Process	10	Comprehensive explanation of the mediator's role, the process, principles of confidentiality, and establishing a positive, constructive atmosphere.
Facilitation & Communication	10	Demonstrates active listening, reframing, effective questioning, and manages power imbalances and difficult party dynamics with neutrality.
Problem-Solving & Creativity	10	Actively identifies underlying interests, encourages creative brainstorming, and helps parties explore and evaluate a wide range of options.
Ethics & Time Management	10	Upholds confidentiality strictly, manages caucus sessions effectively, and ensures the session progresses within the allocated time frames.
Guidance Towards Resolution	10	Skillfully guides the parties towards a mutually acceptable agreement, helps in reality-testing proposed solutions, and concludes the session effectively.

8.2.2 For Negotiating Pair (Client & Counsel) [100 Marks]

Judging Criteria	Marks	Remarks
Opening Statement & Preparation	20	Clear, concise presentation of facts and interests. Demonstrates thorough preparation and sets a constructive tone for negotiation.
Strategy & Use of Information	20	Effective and strategic use of both General and Confidential Information to advance their party's interests while seeking a collaborative solution.
Teamwork & Role Adherence	20	Seamless collaboration between Client and Counsel. Each member performs their designated role effectively, presenting a unified and professional front.
Negotiation & Flexibility	20	Employs effective negotiation tactics, shows flexibility, and actively participates in collaborative problem-solving to create value for both sides.
Professionalism & Advocacy	20	Maintains professional decorum throughout. Advocates persuasively for their party's interests while remaining respectful and open to the process.



8.3 Tie-Breaker Protocol: In the event of a tie in the cumulative scores after the preliminary rounds, the following protocol will be applied sequentially to determine the ranking:

8.3.1 For Negotiating Pairs: (i) The team with the higher number of individual round 'wins' (i.e., higher score than the opposing pair in a session), and (ii) The team with the higher aggregate score in the "Strategy & Use of Information" criterion.

8.3.2 For Mediators: (i) The Mediator with the higher aggregate score in the "Guidance Towards Resolution" criterion, and (ii) The Mediator with the higher aggregate score in the "Facilitation & Communication" criterion.

ARTICLE 9: PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATION

9.1 The OC holds the exclusive authority to impose penalties for any violation of this Rulebook.

9.2 Penalties can range from a warning and minor deduction of marks to a major deduction or, in cases of severe misconduct (such as scouting or breach of anonymity), immediate disqualification of the team.

9.3 The OC will adhere to principles of natural justice and will provide a team with an opportunity to be heard before a decision on disqualification is made, where practicable. The OC's decision in this regard will be final and is not subject to appeal.



ARTICLE 10: AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

10.1 The Competition recognizes excellence in both negotiation and mediation with the following prestigious awards:



10.2 Certificate Policy:

10.2.1 A Certificate of Participation will be awarded to all registered team members who participate in the competition.

10.2.2 It is mandatory for all participants to be physically present during the Valedictory Ceremony to receive their certificates. The OC shall not courier or send any certificates by post under any circumstances. Teams that are not present will forfeit their right to receive the physical certificate.



ARTICLE 11: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

11.1 Accommodation:

11.1.1 The OC shall provide accommodation for all participating teams.

11.1.2 Accommodation will be available from the evening of Friday, November 14, 2025, until the evening of Sunday, November 16, 2025.

11.1.3 Separate accommodation facilities will be arranged for gentlemen and ladies.

11.1.4 All participants must strictly adhere to the rules and regulations of the accommodation premises. Any reported misconduct may lead to penalties or immediate disqualification from the competition, at the discretion of the OC.

11.2 Transportation:

11.2.1 The OC will not provide transportation for participants from the airport, railway station, or bus station to the designated accommodation. Participants are required to make their own travel arrangements to reach the hotel.

11.2.2 The OC shall provide transportation facilities for the participants to travel to and from the designated accommodation and the Presidency University campus during the days of the competition. A detailed schedule for the transportation will be shared with the teams closer to the competition dates.

11.3 Food:

11.3.1 All meals will be provided to the participants at the Presidency University Campus.

11.3.2 Day 1 (Saturday, November 15, 2025): Breakfast, Lunch, Hi-Tea, and Dinner shall be provided to all participants.

11.3.3 Day 2 (Sunday, November 16, 2025): Breakfast, Lunch and Hi-Tea shall be provided to all the participants on Day 2.

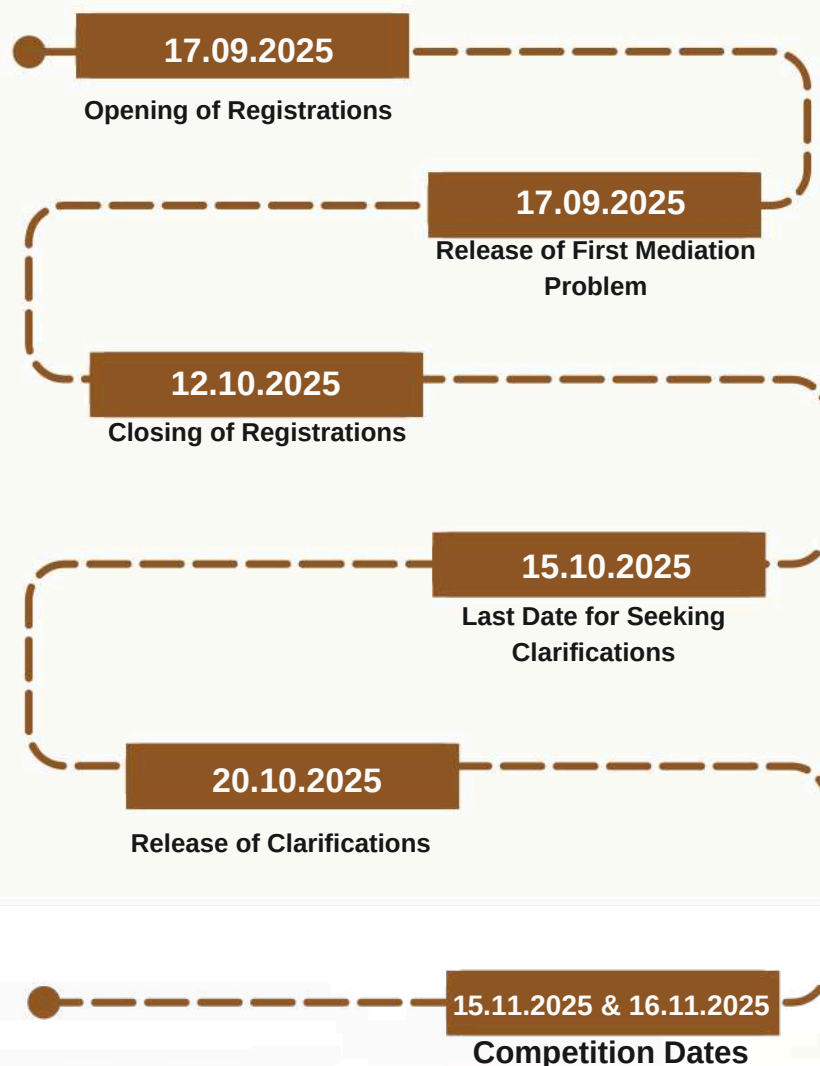


11.4 Finality of Decisions: The decisions of the Expert Assessors, once submitted, and of the Organizing Committee on all matters concerning the Competition, including any disputes over rules or procedures, shall be final and binding on all participants.

11.5 Amendment of Rules: The OC reserves the right to amend, alter, or interpret any part of this Rulebook at any stage of the competition if deemed necessary for the fair and efficient conduct of the event. Any such changes will be communicated to all teams promptly.

11.6 Clarifications: All requests for clarification regarding this Rulebook or the Competition Problems must be submitted in writing to the official email address of the competition by the specified deadline. Oral requests will not be entertained.

ARTICLE 12: IMPORTANT DATES





TITLE SPONSORS



INDUSTRY PARTNERS



KNOWLEDGE PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



SUPPORT PARTNER





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